

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D. State Health Commissioner

DATE:

February 5, 2009

TO:

All Local Health Departments

Attn: Chief Food Specialist

FROM:

A. Scott Gilliam, MBA, CP-FS

Manager, Food Protection Program

**SUBJECT:** 

Gel Spice Co.-Peanut Recall

**SUGGESTED** 

**ACTION:** 

Peanut Recall; Due to Salmonella typhimurium; Recommend notification of affected stores via

phone, fax or e-mail.

From the information provided by FDA, the recalled product was distributed in the neighboring State of Michigan, and <u>not</u> distributed in Indiana. Detail store information is not available at this time. In addition, if any recalled product is found, please notify this office at 317-233-7360.

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## Gel Spice Co. Recalls Small Chop Granules Peanuts Because of Possible Health Risk

Contact: Chaim Fleischer 201-339-0700 Ext. 221

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- February 2, 2009 -- GEL SPICE CO of BAYONNE, NJ is recalling SMALL CHOP GRANULATED PEANUTS, because it has the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections (i.e., infected aneurysms), endocarditis and arthritis.

SMALL CHOP GRANULATED PEANUTS were distributed in New Jersey, Michigan and Iowa.

This product was labeled and marked as:

GRANULATED PEANUTS Item# 89425 Packaged in 5lb corrugated cartons. Expiration Date: 01/2010 – 01/2012

SMALL CHOP - SMALL GRANULATED PEANUTS Item#: 541000 541005 Packaged in 30lb corrugated cartons.

Approximately 500 illnesses have been reported to date.



The recall was the result of a routine sampling program by the Peanut Corporation of America, Blakely Georgia Facility, which revealed that the finished products contained the bacteria. The company has ceased the production and distribution of the product as FDA and the Peanut Corporation of America continue their investigation as to what caused the problem.

Consumers who have purchased GRANULATED PEANUTS are urged to return it to Gel Spice Co., in Bayonne, NJ . Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-800-922- 0230.

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